

Bird Banding Accomplishments 2002

By Lawrence E. Vine and Paul Rasmussen

Abstract

Through the cooperative efforts of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologists within the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, and Integrated Science Services, a total of 10,226 birds were banded in Wisconsin in 2002. Fifteen species of birds including ducks, geese, swans, eagles, woodcock, loons, and terns were banded at 185 sites across the state.

Background

For over 30 years the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has organized extensive bird banding operations on state wildlife areas and private property at many locations across the state. Wildlife biologists within the bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, and Integrated Science Services cooperate to band birds to meet specific research needs and to meet banding quotas assigned by the Mississippi Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Methods

Wild birds were captured using a variety of techniques including night-lighting, bait-trapping, drive trapping, and cannon-netting. Once the age and sex of the captured birds were determined, they were fitted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands. The band numbers, age, and sex of these birds were recorded on field sheets. Colored neck collars were placed on geese and swans to satisfy the requirements of specific research projects. In addition, 318 geese were transported to three new release sites to establish new populations. Specially prepared banding schedules were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland for permanent storage. Permanent banding records were also stored at the DNR Field Office at Horicon, Wisconsin.

Results

A total of 10,226 birds of 15 species were banded in 2002 at 185 locations in Wisconsin. 4,506 resident Canada geese were banded at 71 sites and 175 were transported to an additional two sites. Fifty-seven bald eagles were banded at 39 sites, 80 common loons were banded at 14 sites, and 473 common terns were banded at 2 sites.

Table 1. Banding Summary for 2002.

Age and Sex

Species	Adult			Hatch Year			Local			Total
	F	M	U	F	M	U	F	M	U	
Green-winged Teal	6	24		4	5					39
Black Duck	3	3		2	1					9
Mallard/Black Hybrid					1					1
Mallard Duck	534	331		1,728	1,752					4,345
Northern Pintail				2						2
Wood duck	33	198		103	149					483
Gadwall Duck				1						1
Canada Goose										
Wild banded	342	448		5	5		1,666	1,592		4,058
Neck-collared										0
Banded & Transported									444	444
Collared & Transported										0
Radio-collared	4									4
Trumpeter Swan	2	3	13						81	99
American Woodcock	1	6							7	14
Common Tern			40						433	473
Common Loon	17	13	2						48	80
Blue-winged Teal	22	83								105
Bald Eagle							28	28	1	57
Osprey									12	12
TOTAL	964	1,109	55	1,845	1,913		1,694	1,620	1,026	10,226